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Fame or self: Which matters more?
Self or wealth: Which is more precious?
Gain or loss: Which is more painful?

He who is attached to things will suffer much.
He who saves will suffer heavy loss.
A contented man is never disappointed.
He who knows when to stop does not find himself in trouble.
He will stay forever safe.

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Great accomplishment seems imperfect,
Yet it does not outlive its usefulness.
Great fullness seems empty,
Yet cannot be exhausted.

Great straightness seems twisted.
Great intelligence seems stupid.
Great eloquence seems awkward.

Movement overcomes cold.
Stillness overcomes heat.
Stillness and tranquillity set things in order in the universe.

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Fame or integrity: which is more important?
Money or happiness: which is more valuable?
Success or failure: which is more destructive?

If you look to others for fulfillment, you will never truly be fulfilled.
If your happiness depends on money, you will never be happy with yourself.

Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are.
When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.

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True perfection seems imperfect, yet it is perfectly itself.
True fullness seems empty, yet it is fully present.

True straightness seems crooked.
True wisdom seems foolish.
True art seems artless.

The Master allows things to happen. She shapes events as they come. She steps out of the way and lets the Tao speak for itself.

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Name or body: which is closer? Body or possessions: which means more?
Gain or loss: Which one hurts?
Extreme love exacts a great price.
Many possessions entail a heavy loss.
Know what is enough - Abuse nothing. Know when to stop - Harm nothing. This is how to last for a long time.

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Great accomplishment seems unfinished But its use is continuous.
Great fullness seems empty But in use is inexhaustible.
Great straightness seems bent, Great skill seems clumsy, Great eloquence seems mute.
Exertion overcomes cold. Calm overcomes heat. Pure calm is the norm under heaven.

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Fame or the self, which is dearer?
The self or wealth, which is greater?
Gain or loss, which is more painful?
Thus excessive love must lead to great spending
Excessive hoarding must lead to heavy loss
Knowing contentment avoids disgrace
Knowing when to stop avoids danger
Thus one can endure indefinitely

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Great perfection seems flawed
Its function is without failure
Great fullness seems empty
Its function is without exhaustion
Great straightness seems bent
Great skill seems inept
Great eloquence seems inarticulate
Movement overcomes cold
Stillness overcomes heat
Clear quietness is the standard of the world

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Which is more important, your honor or your life?
Which is more valuable, your possessions or your person?
Which is more destructive, success or failure?

Because of this, great love extracts a great cost and true wealth requires greater loss.

Knowing when you have enough avoids dishonor, and knowing when to stop will keep you from danger and bring you a long, happy life.

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The greatest accomplishments seem imperfect, yet their usefulness is not diminished.
The greatest fullness seems empty, yet it will be inexhaustible.

The greatest straightness seems crooked.
The most valued skill seems like clumsiness.
The greatest speech seems full of stammers.

Movement overcomes the cold, and stillness overcomes the heat. That which is pure and still is the universal ideal.